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📌 Welcome Mr. Ilkwon HAN (Gideon) to ROCB A/P

FOREWORD



Dear Readers,

Happy New Year 2020!

Thank you for your time reading this 67th ROCB A/P E-Newsletter.

I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season and were able to spend time with your family, friends and colleagues. I returned home to Japan for the New Year holiday and enjoyed spending time with my family relaxing and reenergizing ahead of what will certainly be a very busy 2020. At the same time, I reflected upon my work since joining ROCB in July last year, and strongly feel that without the wonderful support of so many people, my job would have been that much harder and I could not have achieved as many ROCB outcomes. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to AP Members, RTCs, WCO headquarters, and my dear ROCB colleagues for your kind and generous support. My wish is that this new year brings happiness and joy for you and your family.

As we begin 2020, international trade continues to grow and evolve rapidly and becomes ever more complex. There is no doubt that the business sector's expectations of Customs, and our effectiveness in supporting that growth and facilitating legitimate trade will also continue to grow. In order to respond to international demands of Customs in an effective manner, the WCO headquarters has been discussing numerous topics including new and emerging issues. Needless to say, ROCB completely aligns with the WCO policy and will continually work towards Customs modernization for AP Members in 2020, particularly from the perspective of technical cooperation.

This E-Newsletter features our activities undertaken in the fourth quarter of 2019, i.e. October through December 2019. In this Newsletter, there is the greeting from Mr. Ilkwon HAN, as a new member of ROCB A/P and CCF/Korea Operational Manager and

Program Manager. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Ilkwon HAN upon joining ROCB A/P. On behalf of our office, I would also like to express my highest appreciation to Korean Customs Service for the secondment of a respected and accomplished officer and for the generous support to ROCB A/P.

The ROCB A/P is always keen to receive any constructive feedback and suggestions/inputs to our activities, including our communication and public relations activities, with a view to providing better service to the regional Member Customs administrations. I would like to continue to report not only ROCB A/P's activities but also our members' interesting activities through our Newsletters.

Kind regards,

Handwritten signature in Japanese characters: 倉本智和 (Norikazu Kuramoto).

Norikazu Kuramoto (Mr.)

Head of the ROCB A/P

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WCO Global Canine Forum in Melbourne



1-3 October 2019, Melbourne, Australia

At the invitation of the WCO Secretariat, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the Fifth WCO Global Canine Forum held on 1-3 October 2019 at Melbourne, Australia. Nearly 100 delegates from around 30 Member administrations from all over the world, as well as representatives from the partner organizations including police authority, participated the Forum.

The Forum was officiated with the opening remarks of Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General, Mr. Jason Wood, Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs, and Member of the Australian Parliament, and Mr. Michael Outram, Commissioner of Australian Border Force.

Delegates actively discussed the pertinent topics on K9 operation especially in the current environment of illegal trade of drug, weapons, and fake currency and the future vision on the K9 roles and responsibilities in such enforcement operation. Delegates also shared the best practices on the breeding K9 Dogs methodology as well as training method to foster K9 Dogs and handlers and management of Training facility. Delegates unanimously agreed to continuously raise the profile of K9 Dogs in Customs in this critical domain to contribute in the enforcement operation with the promotion and facilitation of legitimate trade in the years to come.



2-4 October 2019, Port Vila, Vanuatu,

Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of the ROCB A/P, accompanied Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General, for his visit to Port Vila, Vanuatu, on 2 to 4 October 2019 for a policy dialogue with the Customs and Inland Revenue of Vanuatu. The WCO delegation was warmly welcomed by Mr. Harold Tarosa, Director of Customs and Inland Revenue.

They discussed, among other things, the Small Island Economies initiative and recent challenges they have faced for example, how to deal drug trafficking, cruise ship passengers, and HS2022 in the enhancing trade facilitation measures including conducting Time Release Study. The WCO delegation also visited the Single Window project facility being developed over the period 2018-2020, based on the Customs IT System.

During stay in Vanuatu, WCO delegation had an opportunity to visit Santo Island to observe the functioning of the value chain strategy through agricultural development for exports, the branding of products in such areas as kava, organic beef, coffee and noni, as well as various tourism resources. We confirmed further close cooperation between WCO, ROCB A/P and Vanuatu Customs for the vital contribution in improving the business environment in Vanuatu.

ROCB A/P introduces the WCO Instruments and Tools on Risk Management and Pre-Arrival Processing to Cambodia Customs representatives in Thailand



15-16 October 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the ARISE Plus Cambodia project, Dr. Tong Hua, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, attended a Cambodian Customs Study Tour to Bangkok, Thailand on Pre-Arrival Processing (PAP) and Risk Management (RM) that held on from 15 to 16 October 2019. A delegation of nine senior officials led by Deputy Director General of the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE) representatives from the European Union (EU) and the Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) gathered to discuss topics such as potential challenges and opportunities by in the utilization of advanced technologies such as big data, blockchain and artificial intelligence.

Dr. Tong delivered a presentation on “WCO Instruments & tools and International good practices on PAP and RM” on 15 October 2019. He highlighted the key points related with PAP and RM in the WCO Revised Kyoto Convention, WCO SAFE framework, WCO Risk Management Compendium as well as WCO implementing the WTO TFA Guidance. He also shared members’ best practices and responded to various questions on RM architecture and framework cycle, pre-arrival data sharing mechanisms and risk indicators of Maritime cargo and Express goods. The study tour also arranged a site visit to Maersk HQ, DHL Hub and Customs at Suvarnabhumi Airport and Laem Chabang Port to observe the systems and practices used in Thailand.

ARISE Plus Cambodia is co-financed by EU and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It is equipped with funds and commissioned for a period of 54 months (01/2019-06/2023). The project is implemented by GIZ and aims to support greater connectivity and economic integration between Cambodia and the rest of ASEAN through implementing the AEC Blueprint 2025 and strengthening institutional capacity.

ROCB A/P attends the 14th edition of the annual WCO PICARD Conference



22-24 October 2019, Skopje, North Macedonia

At the invitation of the WCO Secretariat, Dr. Tong Hua, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, together with more than 240 delegates from international organizations, think tanks, academia and Customs administrations participated in the WCO 14th Annual PICARD Conference which took place in Skopje, North Macedonia, from 22 to 24 October 2019. The 2019 Conference focused on high-level exchanges on international trade, Customs professionalism and topics integral to the Customs function. Big data analytics, coordination border management, cross-border E-commerce, special economic zones, advanced technology at the border and other topics were discussed in depth at the Conference, which echoed the WCO's theme of the Year 2019, "SMART borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport".

The PICARD Conference has become one of the main exchange platforms for Customs and academia to present their latest research, reforms and innovations. In addition, the three-day Conference also included a Youth Forum, including students from Customs Universities who discussed future Customs' skills as well as new business modes in the international trade arena. The Conference officially announced that Jamaica Customs would host the next PICARD Conference in 2020.

ROCB A/P promotes WCO Instruments and Tools on HRM and Training Management among Customs Attachés based in China



7-8 November 2019, Jinan, China

At the invitation of the General Administration of China Customs (GACC), Dr. Tong Hua, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P attended the Customs Attachés' Club (CAC) Seminar on Human Resource Management (HRM) and Training Management, as a resource person and WCO Accredited Expert on HRM, in Jinan City of Shandong Province, China from 7th November to 8th November, 2019. A total of 40 people attended the seminar, comprising of approximately 15 Customs Attachés based in China and representatives from GACC, Jinan Customs and Royal Malaysia Customs attended the seminar.

Dr. Tong expressed his gratitude to the GACC and Co-Chairs Thailand and Malaysia Customs for hosting this meaningful event. He led one session on “WCO Instruments and Tools on HRM and Training Management” during the seminar. He highlighted the main contents of the WCO Framework of Principles and Practices on Customs Professionalism (FPPCP) as well as members' best practices on training management in A/P region. He echoed

the blended learning approach implemented in the WCO practice and further analyzed the ROCB A/P's workshop evaluation template which focuses on the assessment of training effectiveness and impact on Customs modernization. Other topics such as HRM policies, personnel performance assessment system, practical training facilities, competency framework, leadership and management skills and Customs degree programs were also thoroughly discussed during the seminar.

The seminar arranged a study visit to Shandong University (Jinan City Campus) on 8 November, in which participants learned a good joint training diploma program developed by Jinan Customs and Shandong University law school.

ROCB A/P participates in UN SEA of Solutions Conference 2019 and witnesses Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards 2019 in Bangkok



11-14 November 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Dr. Tong Hua, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P participated in UN SEA of Solutions Conference 2019 in Bangkok on the 11 to 14 of November 2019 as a representative of the WCO and its environmental team. The conference is bringing together 600 participants from 45 countries, with 115 speakers in 25 sessions and 25 Exhibition Booths, highlighting solutions to prevent marine plastic pollution.

Dr. Tong was also invited to attend the Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards 2019 ceremony hosted at the UN Conference Center hall on 13 November on behalf of WCO. The

2019 Awards are presented by the UNEP in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), USAID, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), INTERPOL, Freeland Foundation, and Government of Sweden. The five awards categories are Collaboration, Impact, Innovation, Integrity and Gender leadership. China Customs Anti-Smuggling Bureau won two awards on Collaboration and Innovation from the Customs community. Ms. Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific talked with Dr. Tong voiced her appreciation for the big contribution among the Customs enforcement network.

SEA of Solutions 2019 is the first annual partnership week convened by SEA circular – an initiative from the UNEP and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), with support from the Swedish Government – to inspire market-based solutions and encourage enabling policies to prevent marine plastic pollution in South East Asia.

31st Administrative Meeting for National Contact Points of RILO A/P



13-15 November 2019 Chiang Mai, Thailand

At the invitation of the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P), Mr Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of ROCB A/P, and Ms Chloe Au, the Program Manager of ROCB A/P, attended the 31st Administrative Meeting for National Contact Points (NCP) of RILO A/P held on 13-15 November in Chiang Mai, Thailand. More than 45 delegates and observers attended the meeting, including representatives from the 16 Member

Administrations, international organizations (UNODC, UNEP, TRAFFIC) and regional entities (ROCB A/P, RILO ECE and RILO CIS). At the meeting, delegates actively discussed and shared their views on the emerging challenges in various Customs enforcement areas faced by the region such as latest trends of drugs trafficking and international wildlife trafficking, common modus operand of duty/tax evasion and commercial fraud. Taking this opportunity, Mr Norikazu Kuramoto delivered a presentation to introduce the work of the ROCB A/P and provide updates on the regional capacity building activities. He also pledged his support in providing continuous support to enhance Members' enforcement capacity in the fight against transnational crimes in the region.

WCO A/P Regional Contact Points Meeting in India



18-20 November 2019, Puducherry, India

29th WCO A/P Regional Contact Points (RCPs) meeting was held on 18 November 2019 for a 3-day session in Puducherry, India, organized by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) as Vice Chair. 38 delegates from 20 A/P regional Member administrations and 5 representatives from the WCO Secretariat, the RILO A/P and the ROCB A/P, as permanent observers, attended the meeting and discussed regional collective efforts in the area of Trade facilitation, Security, Cruise ship targeting, and Small Islands Economics (SIEs). Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of the ROCB A/P, participated in the meeting and presented on the ROCB A/P's activities in the last fiscal year 2018/19. He also provided an overview of the planned activities in the current fiscal year as well as recent activities including the

outcomes of the Regional Training Center Heads meeting held in Incheon, Korea. Mr. Kuramoto presented on the implementation of the A/P Regional Strategic Plan 2018-2020, focusing on capacity building-related actions. Other WCO regional bodies, namely the RILO A/P delivered their activity reports. The delegates called for continued close collaboration among the WCO regional bodies, including the ROCB A/P, for continued good coordination and greater synergies in capacity building and technical assistance.

ROCB A/P attends the Debriefing of Operation of Thunderball & Demeter V



26-28 November 2019, Shenzhen, China

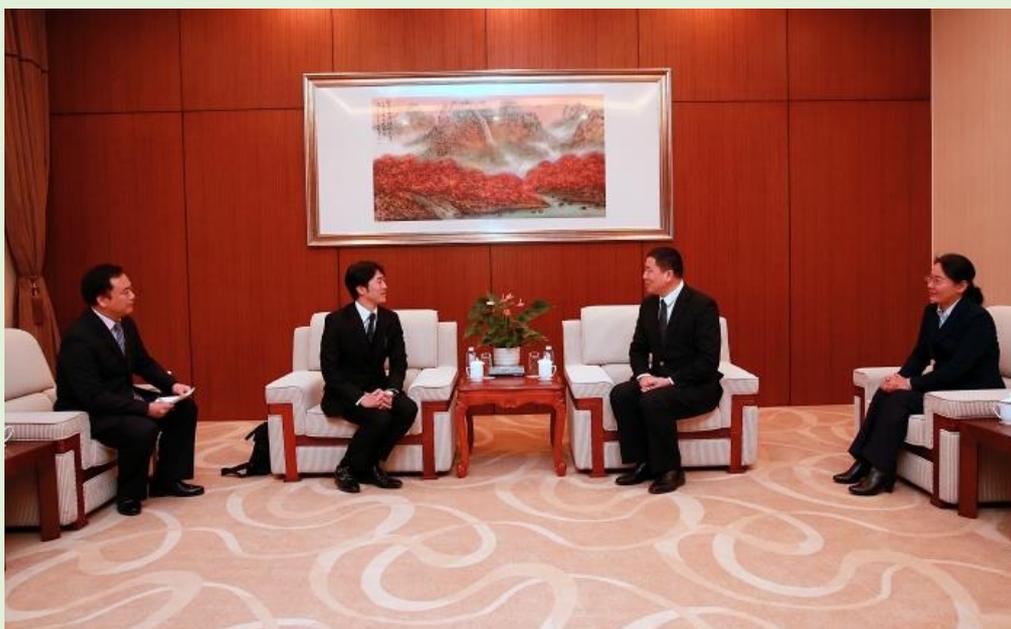
The ROCB A/P Head Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto and Programme Manager Dr. Tong Hua attended the Operation of Thunderball & Demeter V debrief and workshop in Shenzhen from 26 to 28 November 2019. The debrief was co-hosted by the General Administration of China Customs (GACC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) on 26 November 2019, was opened with keynote speeches from China Customs Minister Ni Yuefeng, WCO Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya, and CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero.

The debrief on Operation Thunderball which targets against wildlife smuggling, was co-organized with INTERPOL and with the support of other partners from the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC). Operation Demeter V focused on enhancing control of transboundary shipments of waste, with a specific focus on plastic waste as well as Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). Both operations were carried out in 2019

and showcased Customs' contribution to environmental sustainability partnerships with environmental agencies, other law enforcement agencies and additional partners.

Mr. Kuramoto and Dr. Tong also joined the group to pay a field visit to Shenzhen Customs on 27 November, in which the delegates closely watched the field enforcement operations on the illegal trafficking of environmental goods. They also observed the use of cutting-edged smart systems and equipment applied on the Customs frontline. At the invitation of the WCO Secretariat, Dr. Tong Hua moderated a three day workshop on wildlife protection, solid waste control and ODS issues included the panel discussion. He especially enlivened the panel discussion and led the topics into information sharing, advanced technology, joint operation and future cooperation which shows the Customs community's continuous commitment to protecting the environment and echoes the theme of this event – "Protecting our home planet, we are on the move".

The Head of ROCB A/P pays a formal visit to RTC-China (Shanghai Customs College)



2-3 December 2019, Shanghai, China

At the invitation of the RTC-China, Shanghai Customs College (SCC), Mr Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of ROCB A/P, and Dr. Tong Hua, the Program Manager of ROCB A/P, paid a formal visit to SCC from 2-3 December 2019. Mr. Kuramoto was warmly welcomed by the President of SCC, Dr. Cong Yuhao and the Director of International Cooperation Department, Ms. Wang Liying.

During the official meeting with President Cong, Mr. Kuramoto expressed his appreciation of SCC's great support on WCO's regional capacity building activities and sought the continuous solid cooperation between the ROCB A/P and SCC. Dr. Cong congratulated Mr. Kuramoto on his appointment as new Head of the ROCB A/P, and strongly believed under Mr. Kuramoto's leadership, the A/P region will contribute more tangible outcomes and capacity building events to the members.

Mr. Kuramoto also exchanged views on future ROCB internship project, joint research and workshop arrangement with the international cooperation team of SCC. During the visit, Mr. Kuramoto joined a campus tour of the SCC and observed the training activities, facilities and China Customs information center in the SCC library. SCC library hosted the book donation ceremony for recognizing the ROCB A/P's kind donation of its Annual Report 2018-2019 to further enrich the collection of international material in SCC library.

Over the course of the visit, Mr. Kuramoto was invited to deliver a lecture to the Customs-majored bachelor students. He used the theme of international cooperation to light up the future Customs officers' very significant sense to face this rapidly changing international environment. Furthermore, he highlighted the importance of capacity building into the international cooperation area because it will enhance the real capacity of a Customs administration and eventually lead to fundamental Customs modernization. Mr. Kuramoto also responded to lots of questions from the young students and the lecture content was successfully passed on to the students as well.



ROCB A/P attends WCO Global Security Conference



11-12 December 2019, Brussels, Belgium

At the invitation of the WCO Secretariat, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the WCO Global Security Conference held on 11-12 December 2019 in Brussels, Belgium. The was attended by more than 150 delegates from over 50 member administrations as well as representatives from the other international partner organizations.

The conference was opened with keynote remarks from Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General, Mr. Dicksons Kateshumbwa, Uganda Customs, and H.E. Mr. Makita Shimokawa, Japan Ambassador in Belgium.

Delegates actively discussed the pertinent challenges on the illegal trafficking of goods related to terrorism across our borders. Delegates also shared the current situation of trafficking and seizing of terrorism martials. Delegates unanimously agreed to continuously cooperate among Customs not just at a national level, but also bilateral and regional level for further effective border enforcement.



ROCB A/P attends the WCO second Global Meeting of Integrity Experts



16-19 December 2019, Xiamen, China

At the invitation of the WCO Secretariat, Dr. Tong Hua, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, participated in the WCO second Global Meeting of Integrity Experts from 16 to 19 December 2019 at the WCO Regional Training Center (RTC) in Xiamen, China. The event was generously sponsored from the Customs Cooperation Fund of China (CCF/China), which brought together 26 global integrity development experts from 18 Member administrations covering all six WCO regions, as well as three experts from the WCO Secretariat.

During the intensive four days, participants were introduced to the WCO's most current integrity-related activities instruments and tools as well as members' best practices on internal control and automation focused on risk assessment. Participants were divided into groups to review and discuss the WCO's main integrity tool, the Integrity Development Guide (IDG) based on the WCO Revised Arusha Declaration on Good Governance and Integrity in Customs. On behalf of the Group 1, Dr. Tong Hua reported their findings and proposals to further update the current IDG which published in 2014.

The WCO Global Meeting of Integrity Experts aims at consolidating the knowledge of recognized Customs integrity experts, following-up on the outcomes of the first Global Meeting held in Brussels in October 2018 and creating a good expert platform to communicate the development and achievement on Customs integrity related topics.

WCO Regional Workshop on AEO



16-20 December 2019, Kashiwa, Japan

The WCO Regional Workshop on raising awareness on the development of regional cooperation and strategy in the context of Authorized Economic Operators(AEO) was held on 16-20 December 2019 at the WCO Regional Training Center in Japan (Japan Customs Training Institute(CTI)), under the sponsorship of Japan Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan). The Workshop was organized in close cooperation with Japan Customs and the ROCB A/P. A total of 25 Customs officials representing 21 member administrations in the Asia Pacific Region attended the workshop and facilitators from Malaysia and Japan led the sessions. Ms. Saori Nojima, Program Manager, and Ms. Vareemon Chairungsilert, Program Coordinator of the ROCB A/P, also attended as facilitators/coordinators for the Workshop.

In addition to the WCO SAFE Frameworks of Standards and some updates of AEO Package as a basic knowledge, the Workshop covered WCO tools to implement AEO programme and help Mutual Recognition Arrangement/Agreement(MRA) such as the Customs AEO Validator Guide, relevant Training Module, Guideline on Traders Identification Number among other things. The Workshop also provided the opportunity to share experiences and challenges of respective administrations among the participants. A site visit including mock validation exercises enabled the participants to observe recognized AEO's business operations and the relationship between Japan Customs and the business. Consideration of the existing challenges and the draft concepts in the AEO 2.0, the participants also discussed possible regional cooperation and strategy to take further steps forward. Ms. Nojima explained the relevance of the Asia Pacific Regional Strategic Plan AEO

related activities, capacity building activities in the A/P region and led a discussion on leadership and management. She also discussed the individual activities and commitments to be taken after the Workshop.

The workshop was successfully concluded with all participants' clear in the understating and recognition of their possible future actions. It also helped to build a communication network among the participants and facilitators for future cooperation and collaboration. The participants showed their appreciation to Japan Customs, CTI, WCO, ROCB A/P, and the facilitators/coordinators for their support to the Workshop.

Message from Mr. Ilkwon HAN (Gideon)

It is my honor to offer greetings to fellow officers. After commencing as a customs officer in 1988, I had a dream to be an international customs officer. In the course of my career and more than 30 years in Korea Customs Service, I have worked across many areas like PCA, Cargo and Baggage Inspection and Investigation, etc. Among my experiences in Customs, PCA (including Customs Valuation) was my main function and area of expertise. Finally, I could be an adjunct professor in CBCTI. One more experience in Capacity building was VCOA (Virtual Customs Orientation Academy) project in WCO, 2014. I was a virtual tutor in the pilot project, and I received excellent and encouraging feedback from participants. This led to me attending a capacity building committee meeting in 2015 to present the VCOA program as a Best Practice.



Anyhow I never imagined I would work and live Bangkok. However, my dream has allowed me to be a member of ROCB which is a quite challenging task. But my ambition to dedicate myself to WCO remains. I will do my best to support our colleagues. And I will always be with you, opening my ears to hear your voices. God bless you.

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